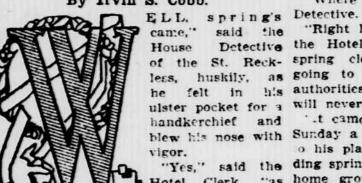
The Hotel Clerk Admires the Blithesome Spring.

By Irvin S. Cobb.



snow. But so far as I'm personally con- vantages in city life when you get back. cerned you can search me. There's no trip like that seems to make a fellow namely, summer, fall and winter, has overshoes. not yet begun to steal to any noticeable "Well, I went up to the Grand Central personally I haven't seen any of the pro- morning before breakfast. nounced signs of spring as yet-oh, yes, come to think of it, I'll have to take that

signs, too."

"Where 'bouts?" inquired the House

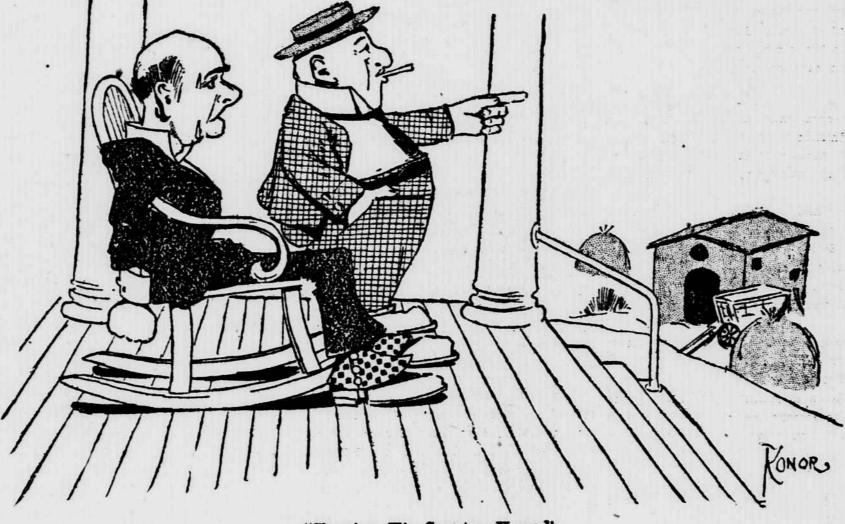
came," said the "Right here on our main street," said Detective the Hotel Clerk. "I've seen the new of the St. Reck- spring clothes that lovely woman is less, huskily, as going to wear this season unless the he felt in his authorities interfere, and I feel that I ulster pocket for a will never be the same man again.

handkerchief and '.t came about like this, Larry. Last blew his nose with Sunday a friend of mine invited me out o his place in the country to see bud-"Yes," said the ding spring in the act of budding on the Hotel Clerk, "as home grounds. It does a fellow good the poet says, to go into the suburbs sometimes-you hall gentle spring; and also rain and notice so many new beauties and ad-

incriminating evidence on me, not even more reconciled to dragging out his exa bad cold. The delightful lassitude istence in a jungle of brick and mortar which steals over me in the springtime, where the sidewalks are paved with real causing me to feel just as languid as I paving instead of a dark brown, gummy feel at certain other seasons of the year, stuff that takes death masks of your

extent. I read in the p per the other and got on a train that was full of hopeday that the robins had come north for .ul homeseekers and young babies and their regular spring practice, and that we rode to my station. The conductor in the south the base oall players were put me off and then heartlessly went leaping nimbly from sack to s ck utter- way and left me in the midst of one of ing the bell-like notes of their kind, all those great future residential centers except the variety known as the Mertle that a real estate company designs some bird, which never touches the sack. But night after dinner and builds the next

back, because I've seen some of the "You know the kind of place I mean, Larry. There's a model cottage up on



"Showing His Country Home."

souvenir post cards.

aboriginals who lived there before the down with one. development company came along and gave his tribe blue beads and \$8 in casn

after I'd lost my umbrella and one with balconies running around it, and thought he heard a bluebird piping back callings, such as law and medicine and below."

pants and leather puttees, to give the take those risks. I spoke of the condi- local is leaving on track No. 6.

who comes down to the station and stuck to the comparative high ground that in a minute a man with a mega- that this is known as the Dutch neck, strolls up and down the platform when bordering the edge. I'm a poor swim- phone will come out on the stair land- so called, I presume, because the neck a train is due, wearing a pair of riding mer anyhow, and I never cared to ing and announce that the Stamford is where the Dutch usually have it

five minutes if the speed laws were sus- flats where, when there's company in My friend said, though, that he'd al- burst into loud sobs, will you? pended and you had a racing car to do the parlor and somebody gets up to ready seen one of the harbingers of go, all the others have to sit still while spring passing the house, the same being "My way led me along a lovely wind. the one who's leaving picks out his own a kalsominer wearing one of those em- "Well, sir, it looks to me like they exaggerated," said the Hotel Clerk.

been the expiring gasp of the steam, steps all the time. It used to be that it heating fixtures as the fire in the furnace took several months and some causes to went out, and while he was looking for get a divorce. Now they hand them out a full crop of buds and blossoms almost the same as cruilers in a qui k lunch any day, still he had to confess that and you don't have to have any cause at spring was proving just a mite back- all. You just say you want a divor-

brave men and also I may say some shakes hands with him with one hand, brave women and a few fair men. Then slams a chloroform cone over his face I knew that spring might as well get with the other, and when he comes to be over its lingering diffidence and come has nine stitches in his side, all new right along, because the women were ones, where he only had one before, and wearing their spring clothes, anyhow, the surgeon is standing over by the wialooking chilled but pleased. They're dow holding his vermiform appendix up wonderful clothes this spring, too, Larry, to the light and saying: Yours just rewonderful. As far back as last fall, when every properly dressed woman had to carry her head as if she was trying to see what the people in the top story were having for dinner, I knew if the fashionable stock got any higher the female ear would either, have to be removed or else buttoned through a hole in the goods the same as a straw sunbonnet for a horse. I guess, maybe, the designers for the fashions saw the danger, too, because they took a knife in hand and at one fell swipe they hewed the whole blame works away, so that now there's no collar at all, and the skinny sister is left with a sort of an undressed air, like a cassowary with its the hill occupied by a local sales agent galosh, I quit making soundings, and when you sit in it you keep expecting head sticking out of a churn. I'm told handed to them.

place the proper society tone. He con- tion of the road after I'd reached my "Naturally, with all that grandeur, "The same leaning toward economy is stitutes the visible populace, with the friend's place and had been revived by there were a lot of old forest trees on shown in the rest of the costume. Those "As the Poet Says-"Hail, Gentle exception of a survivor of the original the use of suitable stimulants, and he the lot, or they will be old forest troes I saw were built so straight up and inhabitants, who now drives the local explained that it was merely the spring when they grow up, if the agent for the down that a thin woman looked like ceived and contents noted,' or words to hack for a living, and a station agent thaw setting in. I'd known all along nursery gardens wasn't lying. So after one of those dance program lead pencils that effect. who runs the telegraph wire and handles that it was very dangerous if the measles dinner we went out across the lawn, me and a stout one like a brick i. ie with a "But women's fashions, strange things the baggage; also chewing gum and or the mumps set in on you, but I'd doing the Australian crawl stroke in- flower pot turned upside down on top of that they are, just go round in a ring. never thought a thaw was so serious. voluntarily when we came to the softer it. But if they're skimpy and saving No matter how much she spends on her "The lone veteran of the strange I can only hope that I'll never be taken spots in the greensward, and looked with the material they're cutting loose wardrobe a woman is always wearing intently through the top branches of the regardless on the buttons. The paper something that's like what she were ten forest trees, some of which were upward said the other night that one of the new years ago or like, what she'll be wearing of four feet high, for the tender green frocks would have 500 buttons on it. ten years hence, if she lives. And that's for land that is now selling at so much "He had a great place, all right. The shoots of budding spring. But we didn't Think of going to take a girl to the what you married men spend your gool a front caret, wanted me to ride in his house roamed all over the lot and had a find any. They must all have been in- theater and waiting until she'd buttoned money for."hack. But I said no, because my friend reception hall in it that was fully a shoots. As they say at a lodge meet- herself 500 times and then had to do it "My wife was readin" to me where it lived only a short five minutes from the quarter of a mile across. I knew him ing, the committee on shoots reported all over again because she's started says the new fashionable waist line would station. That is, it would be a short when he lived in one of those Harlem no progress and asked to be discharged, wrong. Just think of that, Larry, and be located only six inches above the

ing road that was nine feet wide and legs. But now he's away up in the face pire effect overalls, such as all classy make more changes and fewer improve- "With the waist line six inches above the about the same depth, although I cards and he has a living room about kalsominers affect, and as he sat in the ments in women's clothes than in any- knees that would neturally throw the wouldn't be positive as to that because the size of the state of Rhode Island, larary the Wednesday sefore he'd thing else on earth. The other higher ankle line down into the flat on the floor

> stopped. The last night of carnival was wordy oration over the deceased. Then, music was execrable. So we left early really worth coming to Munich to see- when the prince had been interred in a only to find that it is one of the oppressive especially at Simplicissimus. Of course, trap door everybody danced on his grave German customs that no one can cross Munich frankly goes crazy all during the and went home scher.

> ante-Lent festivi ies. Staid citizens throw After all these festivities we thought parade comes along! There we were,

of the estate, although it might have the likes of that are taking forward and that's ample. Once upon a time if a man had a pain in his tummy he west to the dock and got the standard pre-"I was afraid so, too, until I st rted scription for the cramp colic and a nill down the avenue the next afternoon and for one bone to services rendered. Nowran into a parade of fair women and adays the doctor meets him at the door,



Spring."

knees," remarked the House Detective.

"As a modest and law-abiding citizen I trust that the report has been grossly

WASHINGTON GIRLS TAKE A TRIP "TO THE LAND OF old to stop or leave the cafe-and she hair and a vacuous smile, recited a as all the royalties looked bored and the



about Bohemia - that is, the Bohemia of song and the life of life only Dixle and Kathleen were little Russian girl, seizing the chance to mia of song and here it would be ideal. At the American appropriate the floor. "Why should you story-two Wash- teas on Saturdays I've met a crowd of want to fight needlessly when every day ington girls who agreeable compatriots. and then in our in my country men are dying and going to are studying art house there are all sorts of queer people prison because they fight for a nobling Munich deciding Munich deciding to be interviewed. My favorite cause!" Her little white face flushed in Munich decidstunt is to give an experience party, over pink and the queer blue eyes gleamed as
ed to make a beer and fudge, and get them all to talk. her words rushed over each other.



"And That's What the Married Men Spend Their Good Money For."

Vienna. In the first place, it's much university, and has just passed from the took up the study of Pers'an, and later quieter, and, of course, smaller and more undignified rank of a "fox" (freshman) to made his translation of the Rubaiyat or homelike. Instead of hoarding which that of a "bursch" or fighting fellow. homelike. Instead of boarding — which that of a "bursch" or fighting fellow. He we've come to loathe—we took two roams used to be fond of relating the dreadful in an apartment and had our meals sent stunts he was made to go through, such yam, to whose philosophy of life Fitzall the comforts of home without bother- ceeding which involved twenty-five tall translation which has made him famous. issue of food was decided I went with Irene to hunt up art schools. This is certainly tedious and humiliating business in much of a perfect lady to listen. I, being posium: Munich, for although there are oceans of schools-some good, some bad-all of the instructors are herribly sniffy about women. They're even worse than in Vienna. At one school Irene had heard of the man growled a good deal about girls never working, and always getting marr.ed; then finally he said ungracicusly; "Well, you can try but don't blame me if you don't succeed-fore gners are never

in earnest." Irene's blue eyes blazed, but he took no notice. The other day, however, he told

At the large academy, the finest school of all, they have a ridiculous habit of excluding women entirely, but Irene go in o they do they are pretty easy on us. Just

journey of obserThe little Russian whose father is one of vation. The story is told by one of obseris told by one of observation. The story with hair-raising tales about revolutionis told by one of observation. The story with hair-raising tales about revolutionis told by one of observation. The story with hair-raising tales about revolutionis told by one of observation. The story with hair-raising tales about revolutionis told by one of observation. The story with hair-raising tales about revolutionis told by one of observation.

a journalist am all ears. It seems that

these fighting corps are made up of cer-

law, medicine, architecture, etc., get to-

The student grinned. "They are sup-

posed to, because it's against the law.

but they hardly ever interfere, and when

that without these no one is a man.

is told by one of aries and their program, while she sits vodka, for it was bitter cold-and killing them: cross-legged on the divan and drinks tea, here, there, anywhere; if you had seen Irene suddenly decided that Vienna was A very youthful student, who plays the the great cannon balls come through the no home of art, and pined for Munich; violin, and two English girls, who can't housetops, killing the children, crushing help it and are downright nice, and two down the old men; if you had seen your that was the beginning of it all. There American men here to learn illustrating, friends dying in the ditches and could do two American girls we knew were franti- and a little Finn, who only opens his nothing, then you would not ache to k.ll." "Were you with the revolutionaries?" cally hunting for a lodging place, and mouth to say "Ja! Ja!" in crisp, monosyl-

asked the Pastel Man, interestedly. 'Vraiment! And I wanted to at to help the men fight, but my mother and father held me back. Now our poor Russia is in the hands of the cruel bureaucracy, but it will not be so long before things are different. The peasants are beginning to study and read papers and our hope lies with them-they are three-fourths of all the people in Russia, and when they wake up you shall see! But first there must be

"Let's go down to Simplicissimus," suggested the Pen-and-Ink Man, feeling the tensity in her voice.

We all welcomed the idea with enthusiasm, for Simplicissimus is the realest bit mant against any impropriety. For intarily, there is a very mournful burial of bohemianism in Munich—and that is stance, during carnival I saw all kinds service at midnight, when the last rites of bohemianism in Munich—and that is stance, during carmival I saw all kinds service at intuition. And he is saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is carnival and the saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is carnival and the saying a great deal. Here every Saturday of fancy dances beautifully performed at are said over Prince Carnival, and he is carnival and the saying a great deal. their sketches and musicians play and Carnival, but the minute a rather outre little Russian herself led the line, and a sing their own compositions, so that it is person started a suggestive dance she was hoarse-voiced household poet, with long



At a Typical Carnival Ball. justly called the cafe-nursery of genius. che balls are given, and elaborate frocks All over the walls are hung drawings and are planned and worn, but here they all paintings given by loyal artists to Kathi go in any old thing, leave their ideas Kobus, the proprietress of the place. She of propriety at home and have the time is a fat, comfortable soul of about fifty, of their lives. adored by the students and full of all sorts of fun. For many years she has

aside their dignity and appear in the that Lent would be deadly dull, but it's wedged in between a heartless crowd, shops and on the streets in all sorts of not so at all. On Saturdays all the just opposite our hotel and absolutely unfancy dress; the officers are on a tear, Americans meet at tea, and I must say able to get to it. "I see this happening and the ar ists and students simply lose I never met a joilier crowd: We have in America," Irene cried wrathily, pickall sense. The favorite stunt is for the gotten into the way of going to the opera ing up her skirt preparatory to crossing men to appear at the principal cafes as in bunches, and also to the "Wagner the muddy park. Just as she was doing Gainsborough girls, frocked in white satin Abund" Thursday nights, where one sits a marvelous Eliza-crossing-the-ice leap princesse robes, and do the skirt dance or at little tables and hears the best Wagner two firmly objecting policemen seized her some fancy Spanish steps. Cakewalks, music for ten cents. Then on Sundays rigidly and set her back in the crowd, too, are in high favor. Then there are all every one walks in the Promenaden-Platz The dignified Irene said the English equivsorts of masked balis and street proces- during the hour the military band plays, alent of "Donner wetter!" and we both sions, and all of Germany loses its head Absolutely I never saw a more interest- trailed morosely through the mob, hopewith a truly Parislan abandon. At one ing parade, not even on F street on Sat-less about ever getting to our balcony. their shoulders-she nearly died of mortification, but, as I told her, you needn't expect anything else during carnival. It's not the fashion to be shocked. I myself flirted like mad, sitting on a balcony rail between two desperate, wild-brained Germans, who made weird love in broken English, and finally when I smoked a very bad cigaret.e felt that I'd rached the climax of bohemianism. In Vienna carnival is taken more seriously-very recher-

made the little gasthaus a veritable home The last night at Simplicissimus is

ball two men calmly picked Irene up and urdays. There are "lady artists," arm All of a sudden we caught sight of four carried her the length of the room on in arm with their affinities, who wear wildly waving arms, beckening to us

OPINIONS OF "OLD FITZ" AND HIS RUBAIYAT.

In the Carnival Procession.

Dixie' suggested that we—Irene and I—sive them our share of the apartment are broken to the properties of the process of the little here we found it very different from one of the numerous fighting corps at the serious literary work. Soon afterward he up from the pension below, thus getting as drinking beer until told to stop, a pro- Gerald's was closely allied. It is this all the comforts of home without bothers ing to housekeep. As soon as the main steins of brewed malt and hops! Now he how it is regarded by men of many minds has changed to harrowing descriptions of many he sathered from the following symduels and intricate cuts. Irene is too may be gathered from the following sym-,

tain cliques, who, under the guise of a common profession, such as engineering. A N address at a dinner of the Omar common profession, such as engineering. Khayyam Club in London December

gether to test each other's strength, 8, 1897. Each corps has its picked men every I cannot sufficiently thank you for the high and semester, who fight at least three duels unmerited bonor you have done me tonight. I each. The student has just completed his feel keenly that on such an occasion, with such fourth, and is very proud of the hideous company, my place is below the salt; but as you sears which record his prowess-he says kindly invited me, it was not in human nature for me to refuse.

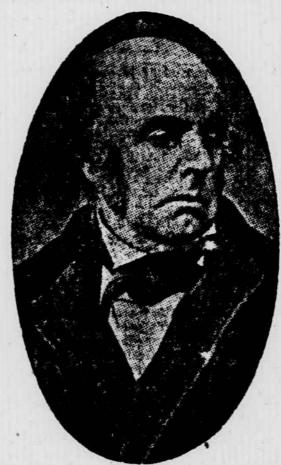
Although in knowledge and comprehension of notice. The other day, however, he told

* *

the two great poets whom you are met to commendate I am the least among you, there is no
over two years—that is a great deal for a
over two years—that is a great deal for a
asked if they didn't forbid it—that is, the

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the two great poets whom you are met to commendate I am the least among you, there is no
one who regards them with greater admiration
or reads them with more enjoyment than myself. I can never forget my emotion when I first saw FitzGerald's translations of the quatrains. Keats, in his sublime ode on Chapman's Homer, has described the sensation once for all: "Then felt I like some watcher of the skies When a new planet swims into his ken."



accumulating years have given him, how he would interpret this quatrain from the English translation of the original:

What profits it, our coming and going? And where is the woof for the warp of the stuff of our life? How many delicate bodies of the world Burn away to dust! And where is the smoke of

I wonder, too, if the philosophic old tent maker himself has met all our recent and quatrain forty-four:

DAVID WARFIELD. I wonder!

of their successful work make one comwhen a new planet swims into his ken. The equalities beauty, the do they are pretty easy on us. Just much, they should are many fight, where no one is the specially here. The Munich states the special three special t

pleded one stout Teuton in Irene's ear.

believe we may reform Munich manners!

how he would treat certain pass ges of they stood there, glaring at each other, soldiers have to walk before a superior, the Rubaiyat! I wonder, if FitzGerald could see his name today as it is engraved in the Hall of Fame, if he should graved in the Hall of Fame, if he should nation of interested spectators.

ed, too so that for fully two minutes a sprinter on a ramy uay—in which and the they stood there, glaring at each other, soldiers have to walk before a superior, neither one budging an inch. Finally the couldn't spoil the spectacular effect, wrathy officer moved, much to the indigand helmets gleamed gold horses danced, and helmets gleamed gold horses danced, plumes blew about in the soft spring plumes blew about in the soft spring breeze, and everything was dazzling, im-"Any German girl-any one but a for- pressive and dignified. The antithesis of the ruling spirit to the motif of carnival eigner-would have known better," ex- days was striking and interesting, and found its explanation in the contrast of "Yes,' she said calmly, "I suppose they the round-eyed fool in his Pierrot ruff, with the military stateliness of the whitehaired prince in his light ray uniform. "They certainly are pig-headed," she He is wonderfully democratic, this prince told me later, "but between us. Jane, I re ent, and walks everywhere throughout the city, refusing to take a carriage even present day poets who have taken liber- Certainly these people are far ahead on his birthday. Somehow that seems to ties with this reflection as expressed in of Americans for materialism. One day be a part of Munich atmosph re-unprean officer whom we had met at a tea tentious, though disnified democracy. came attired like Lohengrin, in shining After Vienna the place seems singu'arly Be prudent, for the means of life are uncertain— came attired like Lohengrin, in snining After Vienna the place seems singularly. Take heed, for the sword of destiny is keen.

If fortune place almond sweets in thy mouth Beware! swallow them not, for poison is mingled played with his sword and treated him in the Viennese; there is none of their. armor, to pay a very stiff and formal simple and lacking in artificiality; there call. Irere and I tried on his helmet, is note of the dash that marks the French generally like a boy. Finally he told us chic and stunning good looks; but, on the just what he had to I've on, how impos- other hand, there is none of the insinsible it was to marry unless he got a cerity or smoothed-over insolence. As rich wife and concluded by demanding Irene says, you always know just where frankly what we consider d well off in you stand, with these people here while TT is an intresting fact that nearly all America, and if we, ourselves, came un- in Vienna they were too insinuatingly great men in all the bulk-little or big- der the category! Irene told him quite cord al-something disagreeable always seriously that we were both heiresses, lurked in the back; round. When we but had been disappointed in love, and, write all this to Kathleen and Dixie they plete perfect achievement, which stands alas! would never marry. He went away declare it is rank heresy and that we've out alone and is their greatest monument quite downcast, like a person who bets been won over by the shocking Bohemian for posterity. What in the jingo lingo of too late on the winn ng horse, and we've attractions of Munich and are really dethe twentieth century we might call their never seen him since, except as he stalked generate to admit our preference. How-